



Temple House of Israel Bulletin

A Member Congregation of the Union for Reform Judaism
15 North Market Street, Staunton, VA 24401 (540) 886-4091
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1412, Staunton, VA 24402
www.thoi.org

Our mission is to perpetuate Jewish life and identity through a welcoming community of spirituality, learning, service, joy and worship

MARCH 2017 / ADAR - NISSAN 5777

Interfaith Lenten Program, 2017

For the second year, Temple House of Israel is participating in the interfaith Lenten program together with Trinity Episcopal Church, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Allen Chapel AME Church, and the Islamic Center of the Shenandoah Valley. At each session, we share a potluck dinner and then three speakers, one from each faith tradition, briefly present on various topics. The speakers are members of the various congregations; they approach each topic from a personal point of view. We encourage members of our congregation to attend as many of these sessions as they can, in our own efforts to promote interfaith understanding. The schedule for **Wednesdays at 6 pm.** is listed below.

March 8 at Allen Chapel AME Church on the Holy Books; THOI Speaker: Ruth Chodrow

March 15 at Trinity Episcopal Church on Holy Messengers; THOI Speaker: Leah Farmer

March 22 at the Islamic Center of the Shenandoah Valley, Harrisonburg on Holy Symbols; THOI Speaker: Beth Young

March 29 at Temple House of Israel on The Holy One; THOI Speaker: Ellen Werther

April 5 at Emmanuel Episcopal Church on Holy Life; THOI Speaker: Caleb Payne

Self Defense Class

March 3 is the deadline to register for our **Self Defense Class** to be offered in the social hall on two Sundays, April 23 and May 7 from 2:00 – 4:00 pm. Taught by Phil Kennedy, the cost is \$40 for both sessions. Please contact Bonny at bonstrassler@comcast.net to register. Please consider coming yourself or asking around your group of friends for more participants

Special Invitation

Mike and Bonnie Brown would like to invite members of THOI to Eliana's Bat Mitzvah. She will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on March 18th at 10 am at Congregation Beth Israel. There will be a kiddush lunch to follow. RSVP to Bonnie at brbrown360@gmail.com

From the Rabbi's Desk

Dear Temple House of Israel Congregants and Friends,

What a month. So much good and so much that felt heavy. So many with health issues and other tsuris. May we speedily move towards a time when the news is good and there are many things to celebrate.

The Spring **Elementary Biblical Hebrew** course continues with much interest on the part of those who have come, and we seem to be getting new students regularly. We are using the Book of Job as the next and are in the middle of chapter 3 now. If you are interested, please join us for the next class meetings, or contact me. The March dates are on the calendar and we continue in April and May. The meeting time is 4:00 – 5:30 unless otherwise noted.

**SPECIAL
EVENT**

Rabbi's Desk cont'd

We had a nice group of people, including guests from out of town for the **Tu Be'Shevat seder** at THOI last month. The food was lovely, the set up was delightful, the company superb and the seder was really good. Everyone there indicated that they had a nice time.

The **Spring Community Awareness Shabbat** had a lovely crowd of visitors and a very 'haimische' service. The Oneg Shabbat was wonderful and I think this was a complete success.

One more **Death Café** is scheduled for this congregational year, on March 1st at THOI, 7 – 9 pm. Watch for more information, forthcoming. This is a chance to come together with others and talk about Death, a topic that is usually off limits. We have a pleasant, relaxed and welcoming environment, open to anyone who wishes to join us, with light refreshments, and a chance to speak what is on your mind. Don't be shy – come join the conversation.

A program in Harrisonburg may be of interest. Stephanie Deutsch, author of *You Need a Schoolhouse*, the book about Julius Rosenwald, will be speaking on March 30 at Beth El at 11:00. The event is free, but donations are welcome to help support an historical marker at the Elkton Rosenwald School.

For anyone seeking an early morning experience on a Sunday, I will be preaching at Emmanuel Episcopal Church on March 19th. In exchange, Rev. Shelby Owen will be delivering the sermon at Temple House of Israel on April 7th.

Torah and Calendar

The Torah Parashiot for the coming weeks are Mishpatim (Shabbat Shekalim), Terumah, Tetzaveh (Shabbat Zachor), Ki Tisa (Shabbat Parah), Vayakhel-Pekudei (Shabbat HaChodesh), and Vayikra. We are in year 1 of the triennial cycle of Torah readings.

Rosh Chodesh for Nisan will be March 28th.

Rabbi's Message

The last month was busy, and there has been a lot happening in the congregation, including changes that were (to me, at least) unexpected and unforeseen. At the same time there has been almost too much to absorb occurring in the larger world. All of which leaves me, and I suspect many of us, breathless, unsure, anxious, and even worried. I don't know what all the changes and events portend; I hope good things can come of at least some of them, but it is hard to see or feel that right now. I don't have answers (nor do I think anyone does), and I don't believe in such a thing as a panacea or cure-all, but I know that we cannot act out of fear or in anger and expect positive results.

I believe that this is precisely when it is essential that we look to the members of our community and seek solace and comfort, both in each other, in our sacred texts, in our holy rituals and in the words of our beloved prayers. That won't make it "all better" for us, but it may help us to dig deeper and find courage, moral strength and compassion – all of which are deeply needed at this time in many areas by so many people. Perhaps we will find it in ourselves to work for the good and find the holy sparks that are hidden, even in the most difficult situations and people – and see a way to elevate those sparks.

Rabbi Joe Blair

Contacting the Rabbi

Please Note: Rabbi Joe may be reached by email at RabbiJoeB@hotmail.com. Other email addresses may not reach him in a timely fashion or at all. He reads email regularly, except on Jewish Holidays or Shabbat, when he does not use the computer. His cell number is 925-272-8563 (925-2-RAVJOE). Telephone messages left at the Congregation number are only checked sporadically.

PLEASE CALL if you have any urgent messages or in case of an emergency and please let Rabbi Joe know if you or anyone you know is ill or would want a call or visit for any reason.

You are also invited to contact Rabbi Joe to arrange an appointment to meet. Rabbi Joe will be happy to make an appointment to speak with you, so that he can offer you his full, undivided attention.

Passover 2017

Because of the calendar this year and the timing of our bulletin, it's time to think about Passover. I know. I know. It's waaay too early. But, we will be having the second night **Passover seder on April 11** in our social hall. A huge thank you to Carol and Buffy Shapiro who have agreed to co-chair the event! You will make life easier for them when you respond sooner rather than later. The full details are included separately with this bulletin but the important part – besides the food – is that reservations are expected by April 1st. Please mark your calendars and offer to help with the set up.



Ducks in a Row: Getting Your Affairs in Order

The best gift you can leave your loved ones is an organized estate at your journey's end. In this informative and interesting class, you will learn how to address important matters that can save you and your family lots of time, money and extra work. Discussions include options for preparing a will, organizing family memorabilia, burial/cremation preferences, distribution of belongings, financial planning and much more! Bring \$30 to the first class for materials, including 2 books.

Wednesdays, May 3, 24 and 31, 6:30 - 8:30.

Instructor: Mary Ann Stripling, Ph.D.

Coming Workshop

News from the Pews

- Refuah Shelema speedy recovery for Leah Farmer and Vera Flint.
- Mi Sheberach prayers for healing and wholeness to Adam Clark, Steve Guberman, Jacquie Jacobs, Sue Solomon, Dan Schorsch, David Waterman and Nancy Witt.
- Thank you from Dan and Ellen for all the emails, cards, phone calls, visits and food following Dan's fall January 23. He's doing much better now and thoroughly appreciates all the caring from the congregation.
- Ellen Werther is a grandmother! Jonathan and Hayana are now the proud parents of a healthy boy--Myles Guerrero.
- Congratulations to Ellen Schorsch on her piano recital in February at the Shenandoah Valley Art Center. She received standing ovations! Bravo!
- Mazel tov to Elaine Smith and Steve Goldfarb on their recent wedding.

Women's Group

The Women's Group has been busy.

- We sold out of soup from our recent **Soup Book and Bake Sale**. A great idea which will be repeated! Thanks to all who cooked, baked and contributed books. The unsold books were donated to the Staunton Public Library.
- Ellen Schorsch has agreed to chair our re-established the **Caring Committee**. Please let Ellen know if you know of someone who is in need, would smile at receiving a card, would enjoy a friendly phone conversation or a visit. We can and will help if we know help is needed. Thanks to all who eagerly offered to help!
- Elizabeth Schwartz described the **Journey Bag** project, providing bags with necessities for children who are removed from their home and placed in foster care. First Choice Realty is providing bags and the list of needed items is below. All donations will be greatly appreciated. The filled bags will go to the Virginia Department of Social Services. **People Places** is also looking for medium and small duffel bags which they will fill up with personal care items.

Suggested needs for 7-9 year-old girls and/or 10-12 year-old boys

shampoo	lotion	body wash
toothbrush	toothpaste	comb or brush
pillowcase	stuffed toy	hair ties
socks	Chapstick	pens
journals	crayons	coloring books
any age-appropriate books		

- If you are interested in helping plan our activities or have ideas for new ones, please join the Women's Group for our **next meeting on Sunday, March 12 at 2 pm**.

Religious School

We are deep in preparation for our amazing Purim Spiel on March 12th! Written by Moreh Mike, this "Muppet" spiel will be a delight for all ages. We hope you will plan to join us for this awesome experience!

If you have any interest in finding out more about Religious School instruction for Kindergarten through 7th grade, please contact Morah Dara at mddmhall@verizon.net.

SHORTY

The SHORTY Ski Weekend was a fabulous event ! The Harry Potter theme was enjoyed by everyone. Thanks so much to Grace Miller and Hannah Daniel for developing a wonderful service. Thanks so much to Madeline Hall, SHORTY president, for developing thoughtful and engaging activities for our youth. Thanks to Men's Club for the delicious spaghetti dinner on Friday, to Sisterhood for the pizza on Saturday, and to Leslie Gurowitz, Valerie Lovinger, and our SHORTY co-advisors for the Oneg and Breakfast. The kids had fun sleeping in the social hall and then enjoyed the water park, skiing, tubing, and snow boarding on Saturday before returning to Beth El. Thanks so much to Ron Ornstein for leading us in Havdalah. and everyone had a great time.

If you have any youth interested in joining us, please contact Becky for details at rem82398@gmail.com or 540-908-7947.

Celebrations



HAPPY BIRTHDAYS TO:

Steve Guberman who celebrates on March 10th

Lou Boden celebrating on March 11th

Rebecca Pereles celebrating on March 14th

Laura Jean Brand celebrates on the 19th

Laurie Berman celebrates on March 28th

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Laura Jean and Asher Brand

Mike and Bonnie Brown

February

Yahrzeits

Irving Janus	Irving Kamerman	Joseph Kamerman
Leah Kamerman	Annie Klotz	Abraham Kreitzer
Abraham Levin	Adrien Neuman	Bertram Peretz
Harry Raskin	Moses Rosenthal	Rebecca Rosenthal
Ralph Seltzer	Albert Shultz	Sophie Strauss
Regina Ruttenberg	Irving Waxman	C. Irving Weinberg
Samuel Zeldin		

Donations

Todoh Rabah - Thank you to these people for their recent generous donations to Temple House of Israel:

For the building fund

Shirley Brand
Asher and Laura Jean Brand
Larry and Patty Sutker
Rosalie and David Waterman
Dan and Ellen Schorsch
Jan Kaufman and Art Goldsmith
Sherry Lowe
Gail Davis

In appreciation of Marsha Pillet's time on the new brochure

Debbie Jacobs

For the general fund

Anonymous

Board Contacts

President	Rosalie Waterman	886-1713	drwaterman@comcast.net
VP Member	Debbie Jacobs	688-8058	deb1130@hotmail.com
VP Bldgs			
Secretary	Bonny Strassler	885-8715	bonstrassler@comcast.net
Treasurer	Patty Sutker	456-6647	lpsutker@yahoo.com
At Large	Ellen Boden	703-401-2939	championsresource@hotmail.com
At Large	Ken Schwartz	886-9222	curo44@gmail.com
At Large	Ellen Werther	430-4343	junetenth1935@gmail.com
Trustee	Doug Degen	886-8651	dbd@ntelos.net
Trustee	Alan Goldenberg	885-6878	adqvlg@gmail.com
Trustee	Richard Young	885-1481	richardfyoung@gmail.com
Rabbi	Joe Blair	925-272-8573	RabbiJoeB@hotmail.com